REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 11-15, and 17-20; canceled claims 3 and 4; and added new claim 22. The amendments are supported in the originally filed application, for example, in the as-filed specification at pg. 21, l. 26 - pg. 22, l. 2 and pg. 28, l. 8 - pg. 29, l. 26.

Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-21 over U.S. Patent No. 5,552,995 to Sebastian ("Sebastian").

Sebastian does not disclose or suggest a design support system in which "[a] database accumulat[es] technical conditions, which are to be met by a part shape model to be created according to each unit work history data, in association with each unit work history data . . . [, and] a control section [is] configured to . . . compute at least one technical characteristic value of [a] combined shape model which is created from   . . . output design work data; and compare the computed technical characteristic value with the technical conditions related to unit work history data which is the origin of the design work data; wherein the computation of the at least one technical characteristic value comprises analyzing the strength of the combined shape model," as recited in amended claim 1. Amended claims 2, 7, 9, 11-15, and 17-20 include similar recitations.

The Office Action alleges that Sebastian discloses "a control section configured to compute at least one technical characteristic value of a combined shape model which is created from the output work data." Office Action at 9. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the computation of a volume of a part

corresponds to the claimed computation of at least one technical characteristic value of the combined shape model. Id. However, Sebastian does not disclose computation of at least one technical characteristic that comprises "analyzing the strength of [a] combined shape model," as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 2, 7, 9, 11-15, and 17-20.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 16, and 21 depend from one of independent claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 15, and 20. These dependent claims should be allowable for at least the same reasons as the respective claim from which they depend.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim rejection should be withdrawn and that claims 1, 2, and 5-21 are allowable.

Furthermore, the cited reference does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in new claim 22. For example, Sebastian does not disclose or suggest "a control section configured to . . . create a corresponding surface group in accordance with user input of a correspondence to determine if there are errors in the combined shape model arising from the second reference surface; wherein the errors capable of being determined using the corresponding surface group include at least one of a change of a number of configuring surfaces, a change in direction or quantity of border lines, reversal of a direction of a surface, and folding of a surface," as recited in claim 22. Accordingly, new claim 22 should be allowable.
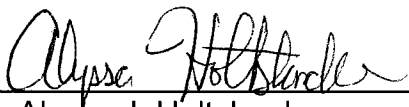
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and

charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 26, 2009   By:_____

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